

(11) EP 4 202 008 A1

(12)

EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION

published in accordance with Art. 153(4) EPC

(43) Date of publication: 28.06.2023 Bulletin 2023/26

(21) Application number: 20950415.8

(22) Date of filing: 08.10.2020

- (51) International Patent Classification (IPC): C09K 11/02 (2006.01) C09K 11/88 (2006.01) B82Y 20/00 (2011.01)
- (52) Cooperative Patent Classification (CPC): B82Y 20/00; B82Y 40/00; C09K 11/02; C09K 11/88
- (86) International application number: **PCT/KR2020/095124**
- (87) International publication number: WO 2022/039335 (24.02.2022 Gazette 2022/08)

(84) Designated Contracting States:

AL AT BE BG CH CY CZ DE DK EE ES FI FR GB GR HR HU IE IS IT LI LT LU LV MC MK MT NL NO PL PT RO RS SE SI SK SM TR

Designated Extension States:

BA ME

Designated Validation States:

KH MA MD TN

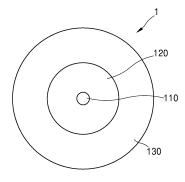
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(54) SEMICONDUCTOR NANOPARTICLE AND ELECTRONIC DEVICE COMPRISING SAME

(57)Provided are a semiconductor nanoparticle, an thin film including the same, and an electronic device including the thin film, the semiconductor nanoparticle including: a cluster consisting of a first semiconductor compound; a core covering at least a portion of the surface of the cluster and including a second semiconductor compound; and a shell covering at least a portion of the surface of the core and including a third semiconductor compound, wherein the first semiconductor compound and the third semiconductor compound each include zinc (Zn), the second semiconductor compound includes Zn, tellurium (Te), and selenium (Se), the first semiconductor compound and the second semiconductor compound are different from each other, and the second semiconductor compound and the third semiconductor compound are different from each other.

FIG. 1



Description

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TECHNICAL FIELD

⁵ [0001] Provided are a semiconductor nanoparticle and an electronic device including the same.

BACKGROUND ART

[0002] Semiconductor nanoparticles, as nanoscale-sized crystalline materials with a size of several nanometers, exhibit a quantum confinement effect, and are also called quantum dots.

[0003] Semiconductor nanoparticles receive light from an excitation source and thus enter an excited state, and thereafter emit energy corresponding to an energy band gap. Semiconductor nanoparticles exhibit characteristics such as excellent color purity and high luminous efficiency, and accordingly, can be used in various applications. In detail, semiconductor nanoparticles may be used in a lighting apparatus, a display apparatus, and the like.

DESCRIPTION OF EMBODIMENTS

TECHNICAL PROBLEM

[0004] Provided are a semiconductor nanoparticle and an electronic device including the same. In detail, provided are a cadmium-free semiconductor nanoparticle and an electronic device including the same.

SOLUTION TO PROBLEM

[0005] According to an aspect, provided is a semiconductor nanoparticle including: a cluster consisting of a first semiconductor compound; a core covering at least a surface of the cluster and including a second semiconductor compound; and a shell covering at least a surface of the core and including a third semiconductor compound, wherein the first semiconductor compound and the third semiconductor compound each include zinc (Zn), the second semiconductor compound includes Zn, tellurium (Te), and selenium (Se), the first semiconductor compound and the second semiconductor compound are different from each other, and the second semiconductor compound and the third semiconductor compound are different from each other.

[0006] In an embodiment, the first semiconductor compound may include ZnSe.

[0007] In an embodiment, the second semiconductor compound may be represented by $ZnSe_{1-x}Te_x$, wherein x may satisfy 0.05<x \leq 0.5.

[0008] In an embodiment, x may satisfy 0.33≤x≤0.5.

[0009] In an embodiment, the third semiconductor compound may include ZnSe or ZnSe_yS_{1-y}, wherein y may satisfy $0 \le y < 1$.

[0010] In an embodiment, a band gap of the first semiconductor compound may be greater than that of the second semiconductor compound, and a band gap of the third semiconductor compound may be greater than that of the second semiconductor compound.

[0011] In an embodiment, the semiconductor nanoparticle may have a spherical quantum well.

[0012] In an embodiment, the semiconductor nanoparticle may emit light having a maximum emission wavelength in a range of about 445 nm to about 550 nm.

[0013] In an embodiment, the semiconductor nanoparticle may further include an outer shell that covers at least a surface of the shell and includes a fourth semiconductor compound, wherein the fourth semiconductor compound may include a Group II element.

[0014] In an embodiment, the fourth semiconductor compound may include Zn, and may be a binary compound or a ternary compound.

 $\begin{tabular}{ll} \textbf{[0015]} & In an embodiment, the fourth semiconductor compound may include ZnS, ZnSe, ZnTe, ZnO, ZnSeS, ZnSeTe, ZnSTe, or any combination thereof. \\ \end{tabular}$

[0016] In an embodiment, the semiconductor nanoparticle may emit light having a maximum emission wavelength in a range of about 470 nm to about 650 nm.

[0017] In an embodiment, the cluster may have an average diameter of less than or equal to about 0.5 nm.

[0018] In an embodiment, the core may have an average diameter in a range of about 2 nm to about 5 nm.

[0019] In an embodiment, the semiconductor nanoparticle may have an average diameter in a range of about 3 nm to about 13 nm.

[0020] According to another aspect, provided is an electronic device including: a first substrate; a light-emitting device; and a second substrate, wherein the second substrate may include the semiconductor nanoparticle.

[0021] In an embodiment, the semiconductor nanoparticle may be included in one region of the second substrate, and may absorb blue light and emit visible light.

[0022] In an embodiment, the second substrate may further include another region distinct from the one region, and the other region may include a scatterer but not include the semiconductor nanoparticle.

[0023] In an embodiment, the second substrate may be positioned in a traveling direction of light emitted from the light-emitting device.

[0024] According to another aspect, provided is an electronic device including: a first electrode; a second electrode; and an interlayer arranged between the first electrode and the second electrode, wherein the interlayer may include the semiconductor nanoparticle.

ADVANTAGEOUS EFFECTS OF DISCLOSURE

[0025] In the semiconductor nanoparticle, the lattice mismatch between the core and the shell may be reduced, thereby improving light efficiency. In addition, the semiconductor nanoparticle may have a larger diameter by being prepared using a cluster. Therefore, the electronic device including the semiconductor nanoparticle may have improved efficiency and improved color purity.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF DRAWINGS

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- FIG. 1 is a schematic view of a semiconductor nanoparticle according to an embodiment.
- FIG. 2 is a partially enlarged view of FIG. 1.
- FIG. 3 is a schematic view of a semiconductor nanoparticle according to another embodiment.
- FIG. 4 is a partially enlarged view of FIG. 3.
 - FIG. 5 is a diagram showing UV-Vis absorption spectra of Examples and Comparative Examples.
 - FIG. 6 is a diagram showing photoluminescence (PL) spectra of Examples and Comparative Examples.
 - FIG. 7 is a diagram showing PL quantum yield (QY) of Examples and Comparative Examples.
 - FIG. 8 is a diagram showing time-dependent PLQY of Examples and Comparative Examples.
- FIG. 9 is a TEM image of Example 1, and FIG. 10 is a TEM image of Example 2.
 - FIGS. 11 and 12 are each a schematic cross-sectional view of a structure of an electronic device according to an embodiment.

MODE OF DISCLOSURE

[0027] As the disclosure may have diverse modified embodiments, embodiments are illustrated in the drawings and are described in the detailed description. An effect and a characteristic of the disclosure, and a method of accomplishing these will be apparent when referring to embodiments described with reference to the drawings. The disclosure may, however, be embodied in many different forms and should not be construed as limited to the embodiments set forth herein.

[0028] It will be understood that although the terms "first," "second," etc. used herein may be used herein to describe various components, these components should not be limited by these terms. These components are only used to distinguish one component from another.

[0029] An expression used in the singular encompasses the expression of the plural, unless it has a clearly different meaning in the context.

[0030] In the specification, it is to be understood that the terms such as "including," "having," and "comprising" are intended to indicate the existence of the features or components disclosed in the specification, and are not intended to preclude the possibility that one or more other features or components may exist or may be added. For example, unless otherwise limited, terms such as "including" or "having" may refer to either consisting of features or components described in the specification only or further including other components.
[0031] Like reference numerals in the drawings refer to like components, and the size of each component in the

[0031] Like reference numerals in the drawings refer to like components, and the size of each component in the drawings may be exaggerated or reduced for clarity and convenience of description.

[0032] When a portion of a layer, film, region, plate, etc. is said to be "on" another portion, this includes not only the case in which the portion is "directly on" another portion, but also the case in which an intervening layer is placed therebetween. When a portion is placed "directly on" the other portion, this means that there is no intervening layer.

[0033] The term "maximum luminescence wavelength" used herein refers to a wavelength value corresponding to a point having a maximum emission intensity in a photoluminescence (PL) spectrum of a solution or film sample including a compound.

[0034] The term "full width at half maximum (FWHM)" used herein refers to a wavelength width at a point corresponding

to 1/2 of a maximum emission intensity in the above-described PL spectrum.

[0035] The term "Group" used herein refers to a group on the IUPAC Periodic Table of Elements.

[0036] The term "average diameter" used herein refers to an average value of diameters measured from all semiconductor nanoparticles included in any sample.

[0037] The term "average thickness" used herein refers to an average value of thicknesses measured from all semiconductor nanoparticles included in any sample.

[0038] Hereinafter, a semiconductor nanoparticle 1 according to an embodiment will be described with reference to FIGS. 1 and 2.

[0039] The semiconductor nanoparticle 1 includes a cluster 10 consisting of a first semiconductor compound, a core 120 covering at least a surface of the cluster 110 and including a second semiconductor compound, and a shell 130 covering at least a surface of the core 120 and including a third semiconductor compound.

[0040] When the core 120 included in the semiconductor nanoparticle 1 grows to cover at least a surface of the cluster 110, a lattice of the second semiconductor compound may be formed in the lattice shape of the first semiconductor compound. Then, the shell 130 may be formed to cover at least a surface of the core 120, and as a result, lattice mismatch between the core 120 and the shell 130 may be reduced. Accordingly, the semiconductor nanoparticle 1 may have improved luminescence efficiency.

[0041] The first semiconductor compound may include zinc (Zn).

[0042] In an embodiment, the semiconductor nanoparticle 1 may not include a heavy metal such as cadmium (Cd). Although the semiconductor nanoparticle 1 does not include a heavy metal such as Cd, the semiconductor nanoparticle 1 may have a spherical quantum well (SQW) structure by using Zn.

[0043] In an embodiment, the first semiconductor compound may include Zn together with one or more selected from Group VI elements.

[0044] In one or more embodiments, the first semiconductor compound may include Zn together with one or more selected from sulfur (S), selenium (Se) and tellurium (Te).

[0045] In an embodiment, the first semiconductor compound may be ZnSe.

[0046] In an embodiment, the cluster 110 may have an average diameter R_1 of less than or equal to about 1.5 nm. In one or more embodiments, the cluster 110 may have an average diameter R_1 of less than or equal to about 1.4 nm. Since the average diameter R_1 of the cluster 110 is less than or equal to about 1.5 nm, the cluster 110 is distinguished from a commonly mentioned core in the art. In addition, since the average diameter R_1 of the cluster 110 is less than or equal to about 1.5 nm, the cluster 110 may not satisfy a band gap suitable for luminescence. Typically, a core or the like may have a diameter in a range of about 2 nm to about 7 nm.

[0047] The second semiconductor compound may include Zn, Te, and Se.

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[0048] In an embodiment, the second semiconductor compound may be represented by $ZnSe_{1-x}Te_x$, wherein x may satisfy 0.05<x \leq 0.5.

[0049] Here, x refers to a compositional ratio of Te to Ze in $ZnSe_{1-x}Te_x$ included in the core 120 of the semiconductor nanoparticle 1. In an embodiment, when x is satisfied within a range of greater than 0.05 and less than or equal to 0.5, the semiconductor nanoparticle 1 may emit visible light, for example, blue visible light or green visible light. In one or more embodiments, when x is less than or equal to 0.05, the proportion of Te in the core 120 of the semiconductor nanoparticle 1 decreases so that an emission wavelength of the semiconductor nanoparticle 1 is shortened. Thus, the semiconductor nanoparticle 1 may not emit visible light, or may emit purple visible light. In one or more embodiments, when x is less than or equal to 0.05, a thin film including the semiconductor nanoparticle 1 may have low absorbance for visible light, and thus an electronic device coupled with a light-emitting device emitting visible light may have reduced efficiency.

[0050] For example, x may satisfy $0.33 \le x \le 0.5$. When x satisfies $0.33 \le x \le 0.5$, the semiconductor nanoparticle 1 may emit green light.

[0051] In an embodiment, the core 120 may include two or more types of the second semiconductor compound having different compositions. For example, the core 120 may include $ZnSe_{0.75}Te_{0.25}$, $ZnSe_{0.66}Te_{0.33}$, $ZnSe_{0.50}Te_{0.50}$, or any combination thereof.

[0052] In an embodiment, the core 120 may have an average diameter R_2 in a range of about 2.0 nm to about 5.0 nm, for example, greater than or equal to 2.5 nm, greater than or equal to 3 nm, greater than or equal to 3.2 nm, less than or equal to 4.5 nm, or less than or equal to 4 nm.

[0053] The third semiconductor compound may include Zn.

[0054] In an embodiment, the third semiconductor compound may include Zn together with one or more selected from Group VI elements.

[0055] In one or more embodiments, the third semiconductor compound may include Zn together with one or more selected from S, Se, and Te.

[0056] In an embodiment, the third semiconductor compound may include ZnSe or ZnSe $_y$ S $_{1-y}$, wherein y may satisfy 0 \le y<1. Here, y refers to a compositional ratio of Se to Zn in ZnSe $_y$ S $_{1-y}$. When the third semiconductor compound includes

ZnSe or $ZnSe_yS_{1-y}$, the lattice mismatch between the core 120 and the shell 130 may be reduced, thereby minimizing structural defects of nanoparticle. Accordingly, the shell may be formed to a be sufficiently thick, so as to improve stability of the semiconductor nanoparticle.

[0057] For example, the third semiconductor compound may include ZnSe, ZnSeS, or ZnS.

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[0058] In an embodiment, the shell may have an average thickness D₁ in a range of 0.25 nm to 1.5 nm, and for example, the average thickness D₁ of the shell may be greater than or equal to 0.3 nm, greater than or equal to 0.4 nm, greater than or equal to 0.5 nm, less than or equal to 1.3 nm, less than or equal to 1.2 nm, or less than or equal to 1.1 nm.

[0059] The shell 130 may act as a protective layer which prevents chemical denaturation of the core 120 to maintain

semiconductor characteristics, and/or as a charging layer which imparts electrophoretic characteristics to the semiconductor nanoparticle.

[0060] The shell 130 may consist of a single layer or multiple layers, and an interface between the core 120 and the shell 130 may have a concentration gradient in which a concentration of an element present in the shell 130 decreases toward the center.

[0061] The first semiconductor compound and the second semiconductor compound may be different from each other, and the second semiconductor compound and the third semiconductor compound may be different from each other.

[0062] In an embodiment, the first semiconductor compound and the third semiconductor compound may be identical to each other.

[0063] For example, the first semiconductor compound may be ZnSe, and the third semiconductor compound may be also ZnSe, but embodiments are not limited thereto.

[0064] In an embodiment, a band gap of the cluster 110 may be greater than that of the core 120, and a band gap of the shell 130 may be also greater than that of the core 120.

[0065] For example, the band gap of the cluster 110 may be in a range of 3.7 eV to 3.72 eV, the band gap of the core 120 may be in a range of 2.4 eV to 2.95 eV, and the band of the shell 130 may be in a range of 2.82 eV to 3.2 eV, but embodiments are not limited thereto. When the above-described conditions are satisfied, the semiconductor nanoparticle 1 having improved efficiency and improved stability may be provided. In detail, when the band gaps are satisfied with the ranges above, the semiconductor nanoparticle having a Quasi-type II band structure, but having improved efficiency and improved stability may be provided.

[0066] In an embodiment, the semiconductor nanoparticle 1 may have a spherical quantum well (SQW).

[0067] The semiconductor nanoparticle 1 may emit visible light. For example, the semiconductor nanoparticle 1 may emit light having a maximum emission wavelength in a range of 445 nm to 550 nm. In an embodiment, the semiconductor nanoparticle 1 may emit light having a maximum emission wavelength in a range of 480 nm to 540 nm. In one or more embodiments, the semiconductor nanoparticle 1 may emit light having a maximum emission wavelength in a range of 530 nm to 540 nm. Accordingly, when the semiconductor nanoparticle 1 is applied to a color conversion member, blue or green color having high luminance and high color purity may be implemented.

[0068] In an embodiment, the semiconductor nanoparticle 1 may have an average diameter (R_2+2D_1) in a range of 3.0 nm to 13.0 nm. For example, the average diameter (R_2+2D_1) of the semiconductor nanoparticle 1 may be greater than or equal to 4.0 nm, greater than or equal to 4.5 nm, greater than or equal to 5.0 nm, less than or equal to 7.0 nm, less than or equal to 6.5 nm, or less than or equal to 6.0 nm.

[0069] In an embodiment, a full width at half maximum (FWHM) of an emission wavelength spectrum of the semiconductor nanoparticle 1 may be less than or equal to 60 nm, for example, less than or equal to 55 nm or less than or equal to 40 nm. When the FWHM of the emission wavelength spectrum of the semiconductor nanoparticle 1 is satisfied within the ranges above, the semiconductor nanoparticle 1 may have high color purity, excellent color reproducibility, and a wide viewing angle.

[0070] In an embodiment, the semiconductor nanoparticle 1 may have reduced lattice mismatch between the core 120 and the shell 130, and have reduced generation of structural defects at the interface between the core 120 and the shell 130, so that the shell 120 may be formed to a sufficient thickness. In one or more embodiments, as the semiconductor nanoparticle 1 is prepared by using the cluster 110, the semiconductor nanoparticle 1 may be prepared in a relatively large size. In this regard, the semiconductor nanoparticle according to an embodiment may implement high efficiency and high color purity.

[0071] In an embodiment, a form of the semiconductor nanoparticle 1 is not specifically limited, and may be any one commonly used in the art. For example, the semiconductor nanoparticle 1 may be a spherical, pyramidal, multi-arm, or cubic nanoparticle, nanotube, nanowire, nanofiber, or nanoplate particle.

[0072] In an embodiment, the semiconductor nanoparticle 1 may further include other compounds in addition to the above-described composition.

[0073] For example, the semiconductor nanoparticle 1 may include, in the core 120 or the shell 130, a Group II-VI compound, a Group III-VI compound, a Group IV-VI compound, a Group IV element or compound, a Group I-III-VI compound, or a combination thereof.

[0074] For example, the Group II-VI compound may include: a binary compound selected from CdS, CdSe, CdTe,

ZnS, ZnSe, ZnTe, ZnO, HgS, HgSe, HgTe, MgSe, MgS, and a mixture thereof; a ternary compound selected from CdSeS, CdSeTe, CdSTe, ZnSeS, ZnSeTe, ZnSTe, HgSeS, HgSeTe, HgSTe, CdZnS, CdZnSe, CdZnTe, CdHgS, CdHgSe, CdHgTe, HgZnS, HgZnSe, HgZnSe, MgZnS, and a mixture thereof; a quaternary compound selected from CdZnSeS, CdZnSeTe, CdZnSTe, CdHgSeS, CdHgSeTe, CdHgSeS, HgZnSeS, HgZnSeTe, HgZnSTe, and a mixture thereof; or any combination thereof.

[0075] For example, The Group III-VI compound may include: a binary compound selected from \ln_2S_3 , \ln_2Se_3 , and a mixture thereof; a ternary compound selected from $\ln GaS_3$, $\ln GaSe_3$, and a mixture thereof; or any combination thereof. [0076] For example, the Group III-V compound may include: a binary compound selected from GaN, GaP, GaAs, GaSb, AlN, AlP, AlAs, AlSb, InN, InP, InAs, InSb, and a mixture thereof; a ternary compound selected from GaNP, GaNAs, GaNSb, GaPAs, GaPSb, AlNP, AlNAs, AlNSb, AlPAs, AlPSb, InGaP, InAlP, InNP, InNAs, InNSb, InPAs, InPSb, and a mixture thereof; a quaternary compound selected from GaAINP, GaAINAs, GaAINSb, GaAIPAs, GaAIPSb, GaInNP, GaInNAs, GaInNSb, GaInPAs, GaInPSb, InAlNP, InAlNAs, InAlNSb, InAlPAs, InAlPSb, and a mixture thereof; or any combination thereof. The Group III-V semiconductor compound may further include a Group II metal (for example, $\ln ZnP$, etc.).

[0077] For example, the Group IV-VI compound may include: a binary compound selected from SnS, SnSe, SnTe, PbS, PbSe, PbTe, and a mixture thereof; a ternary compound selected from SnSeS, SnSeTe, SnSTe, PbSeS, PbSeTe, PbSTe, SnPbS, SnPbSe, SnPbTe, and a mixture thereof; a quaternary compound selected from SnPbSSe, SnPbSeTe, SnPbSTe, and a mixture thereof; or any combination thereof.

[0078] For example, The Group IV element or compound may include: a single element compound selected from Si, Ge, and a mixture thereof; a binary compound selected from SiC, SiGe, and a mixture thereof; or any combination thereof. [0079] For example, the Group I-III-VI semiconductor compound may include a ternary compound selected from AgInS, AgInS₂, CuInS, CuInS₂, CuGaO₂, AgGaO₂, AgAlO₂, and a mixture thereof; or any combination thereof.

[0080] The binary compound, the ternary compound, or the quaternary compound may exist in particles at uniform concentration, or may exist in the same particle in a state in which a concentration distribution is partially different.

[0081] In an embodiment, the shell 130 may further include an metal oxide, a non-metal oxide, or a combination thereof. [0082] For example, the metal oxide or the non-metal oxide may be: a binary compound, such as SiO₂, Al₂O₃, TiO₂, ZnO, MnO, Mn₂O₃, Mn₃O₄, CuO, FeO, Fe₂O₃, Fe₃O₄, CoO, Co₃O₄, NiO, and the like; or a ternary compound, such as MgAl₂O₄, CoFe₂O₄, NiFe₂O₄, CoMn₂O₄, and the like.

[0083] Hereinafter, a semiconductor nanoparticle 2 according to another embodiment will be described with reference to FIGS. 3 and 4.

[0084] The semiconductor nanoparticle 2 includes: a cluster 210 consisting of a first semiconductor compound; a core 220 covering at least a surface of the cluster 210 and including a second semiconductor compound; a first shell 230 covering at least a surface of the core 220 and including a third semiconductor compound; and a second shell 240 covering at least a surface of the first shell 230 and including a fourth semiconductor compound. Here, the first shell 230 and the second shell 240 may be referred to as an inner shell and an outer shell, respectively. The descriptions of the first semiconductor compound, the second semiconductor compound, and the third semiconductor compound included in the semiconductor nanoparticle 2 may be referred to those described in connection with FIGS. 1 and 2, and may be the same as the first semiconductor compound, the second semiconductor compound, and the third semiconductor compound included in the semiconductor nanoparticle 1, respectively. Thus, overlapping descriptions will be omitted.

[0085] The fourth semiconductor compound may include a Group II element.

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[0086] In an embodiment, the fourth semiconductor compound may include Zn, and may be a binary compound or a ternary compound.

[0087] In one or more embodiments, the fourth semiconductor compound may include ZnS, ZnSe, ZnTe, ZnO, ZnSeS, ZnSeTe, orZnSTe.

[0088] In one or more embodiments, the first semiconductor compound may be ZnS.

[0089] In an embodiment, the outer shell may have an average thickness D_2 in a range of 0.3 nm to 1.5 nm. For example, the average thickness D_2 of the outer shell may be greater than or equal to 0.4 nm, greater than or equal to 0.5 nm, less than or equal to 1.4 nm, less than or equal to 1.1 nm.

[0090] The outer shell 240 may act as a protective layer which prevents chemical denaturation of the core 220 to maintain semiconductor characteristics, and/or as a charging layer which imparts electrophoretic characteristics to the semiconductor nanoparticle 2.

[0091] The outer shell 240 may consist of a single layer or multiple layers, and an interface between the shell 230 and the outer shell 240 may have a concentration gradient in which a concentration of an element present in the outer shell 240 decreases toward the center.

[0092] The semiconductor nanoparticle 2 may emit visible light other than blue light. The semiconductor nanoparticle 2 may emit light having a maximum emission wavelength in a range of 470 nm to 650 m. In an embodiment, the semiconductor nanoparticle 2 may emit light having a maximum emission wavelength in a range of 490 nm to 570 nm.

Accordingly, when the semiconductor nanoparticle 2 is applied to a color conversion member, green color having high luminance and high color purity may be implemented.

[0093] In an embodiment, the semiconductor nanoparticle 2 may have an average diameter ($R_2+2D_1+2D_2$) in a range of 3.0 nm to 13.0 nm. For example, the average diameter $R_2+2D_1+2D_2$ of the semiconductor nanoparticle 2 may be greater than or equal to 4.0 nm, greater than or equal to 5.0 nm, greater than or equal to 5.5 nm, greater than or equal to 6.0 nm, less than or equal to 9.5 nm, less than or equal to 9.5 nm, or less than or equal to 8.0 nm.

[0094] In an embodiment, an FWHM of an emission wavelength spectrum of the semiconductor nanoparticle 2 may be less than or equal to 60 nm, for example, less than or equal to 55 nm or less than or equal to 40 nm. When the FWHM of the emission wavelength spectrum of the semiconductor nanoparticle 2 is satisfied within the ranges above, the semiconductor nanoparticle 2 may have high color purity, excellent color reproducibility, and a wide viewing angle.

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[0095] Hereinafter, an electronic device including the above-described semiconductor nanoparticle will be described.

[0096] The electronic device may include a light-emitting device including: the semiconductor nanoparticle and a first electrode; a second electrode; and an interlayer arranged between the first electrode and the second electrode.

⁵ **[0097]** In an embodiment, the electronic device may include a liquid crystal display apparatus, an organic light-emitting display apparatus, or an inorganic light-emitting display apparatus.

[0098] For example, when the electronic device further includes a liquid crystal, the electronic device may be a liquid crystal display apparatus. Here, the light-emitting device may act as a light source, and the semiconductor nanoparticle may be included outside the light-emitting device and the liquid crystal to act as a color conversion member.

[0099] In an embodiment, in the case where the interlayer of the light-emitting device includes an emission layer and the emission layer includes an organic material, the electronic device may be an organic light-emitting display device. Here, the light-emitting device may act as a light source, and the semiconductor nanoparticle may be included outside the light-emitting device to act as a color conversion member.

[0100] In one or more embodiments, in the case where the interlayer of the light-emitting device includes an emission layer and the emission layer includes an inorganic material such as the semiconductor nanoparticle, the electronic device may be an inorganic light-emitting display device.

[0101] The electronic device may further include a thin-film transistor in addition to the light-emitting device as described above. The thin-film transistor may include a source electrode, a drain electrode, and an activation layer, wherein any one of the source electrode and the drain electrode may be electrically connected to any one of the first electrode and the second electrode of the light-emitting device.

[0102] The thin-film transistor may further include a gate electrode, a gate insulating layer, and the like.

[0103] The active layer may include crystalline silicon, amorphous silicon, an organic semiconductor, an oxide semiconductor, and the like.

[0104] The electronic device may further include a sealing portion for sealing the light-emitting device. The sealing portion allows light from the light-emitting device to be extracted to the outside, and simultaneously prevents ambient air and moisture from penetrating into the light-emitting device. The sealing portion may be a sealing substrate including a transparent glass substrate or a plastic substrate. The sealing portion may be a thin-film encapsulation layer including at least one layer of an organic layer and/or an inorganic layer. When the sealing portion is a thin film encapsulation layer, the electronic device may be flexible.

[0105] Various functional layers may be additionally located on the sealing portion according to the use of the electronic device. Examples of the functional layer are a color filter, a color conversion layer, a touch screen layer, and a polarizing layer. The touch screen layer may be a pressure-sensitive touch screen layer, a capacitive touch screen layer, or an infrared touch screen layer.

[0106] Hereinafter, an electronic device 3 according to an embodiment will be described in detail with reference to FIG. 11.

[0107] The electronic device 3 may include a first substrate 310, a light-emitting device 320, and a second substrate 340.

[0108] The semiconductor nanoparticle may be included outside the light-emitting device 320 (i.e., on a first electrode and/or a second electrode). In detail, the semiconductor nanoparticle may be included in the second substrate 340 located outside the light-emitting device 320. The second substrate 340 may function as a color conversion member, and the light-emitting device 320 may function as a light source.

[0109] The light-emitting device 320 may include a first electrode 321, a second electrode 323, and an interlayer 322 arranged between the first electrode 321 and the second electrode 323.

[0110] The electronic device 3 may be an organic light-emitting display device. Accordingly, the light-emitting device 320 may include an organic emission layer in the interlayer 322.

[0111] A pixel-defining layer 330 may be arranged on the first electrode 321. The pixel-defining layer 330 exposes a region of the first electrode 321, and the interlayer 322 may be arranged in the exposed region.

[0112] In an embodiment, a region 342 of the second substrate 340 may include the semiconductor nanoparticle. In this case, the second substrate 340 may be positioned in a direction which light emitted from the light-emitting device

320 travels.

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[0113] The semiconductor nanoparticle may absorb blue light and emit visible light. Accordingly, the second substrate 340 may be designed to absorb blue light and emit light having a wide color range of wavelengths. Accordingly, the light-emitting device 320 may emit blue light having, for example, a maximum emission wavelength in a range of 400 nm to 490 nm, and the thin film may absorb the blue light and emit visible light having, for example, a maximum emission wavelength in a range of 445 nm to 650 nm.

[0114] In an embodiment, the second substrate 340 may further include a scatterer.

[0115] In an embodiment, the second substrate 340 may further include another region (not shown) different from the region 341, and the other region may not include the semiconductor nanoparticle, and the other region may transmit the blue light from the light-emitting device 320. In detail, only the region 341 may include the semiconductor nanoparticle, and the other region may include only the scatterer.

[0116] In an embodiment, the second substrate 340 may further include a lightshielding pattern 344 between the region 341 and the other region.

[0117] Hereinafter, an electronic device 4 according to another embodiment will be described in detail with reference to FIG. 12.

[0118] The electronic device 4 includes a first substrate 410 and a light-emitting device 420.

[0119] The light-emitting device 420 includes a first electrode 421, a second electrode 423, and an interlayer 422 arranged between the first electrode 421 and the second electrode 423.

[0120] The semiconductor nanoparticle may be included in the interlayer 422, for example, in an emission layer included in the interlayer 422.

[0121] The semiconductor nanoparticle may emit visible light. Accordingly, the light-emitting device 420 may be designed to emit light having a wide color range of wavelengths. For example, the semiconductor nanoparticle may emit visible light having a maximum emission wavelength in a range of 445 nm to 650 nm.

[0122] The interlayer 422 may further include an auxiliary layer between the emission layer and the first electrode 421 and/or between the emission layer and the second electrode 423. The auxiliary layer may directly contact the emission layer. The auxiliary layer may improve thin film characteristics of the emission layer.

[0123] The interlayer 422 may further include a first charge transport region between the emission layer and the first electrode 421 and/or a second charge transport region between the emission layer and the second electrode 423.

[0124] Hereinafter, a method of preparing the semiconductor nanoparticle will be described in detail.

[0125] The method of preparing the semiconductor nanoparticle includes: forming a cluster consisting of a first semiconductor compound and then forming a core including a second semiconductor compound to cover at least a surface of the cluster; and forming a shell including a third semiconductor compound to cover at least a surface of the core.

[0126] The first semiconductor compound and the third semiconductor compound each include Zn, and the second semiconductor compound includes Zn, Te, and Se. The first semiconductor compound and the second semiconductor compound may be different from each other, and the second semiconductor compound may be different from each other.

[0127] In an embodiment, a mixture of a precursor of the first semiconductor compound and a solvent may be reacted at a cluster-forming temperature, for example, a temperature in a range of 200 °C to 250 °C, for example 230 °C to form a cluster consisting of the first semiconductor compound. The precursor of the first semiconductor compound essentially includes Zn.

[0128] The cluster thus formed does not undergo any separate isolation process, and a Se precursor and/or a Te precursor may be directly added thereto to form a core including the second semiconductor compound.

[0129] Since the cluster thus formed does not undergo any separate isolation process, a core that covers at least a portion of the cluster may be formed right on top of the cluster after the cluster grows. Accordingly, the core may grow along the lattice of the cluster. For example, when the cluster undergoes an isolation process, the highly reactive Se precursor and/or Te precursor may react with Zn to form a core that does not include the cluster, rather than a core that covers at least a portion of the cluster. That is, when the cluster includes Cd, due to a large difference of reactivity to Zn, a core may not be formed according to the method described above.

[0130] Instead, after the Se precursor and/or the Te precursor is added to the cluster, a resultant mixture may be allowed for a reaction at a temperature in a range of 200 °C to 250 °C, for example, at a temperature of 230 °C. For example, after the Se precursor and/or the Te precursor is immediately added to the mixture of precursor of the first semiconductor compound and the solvent, the reaction may proceed for 30 minutes to form a core.

[0131] Next, a precursor of the third semiconductor compound may be added and reacted to form a shell. In an embodiment, a reaction temperature at which the shell is formed may be in a range of 280 °C to 320 °C, for example, 300 °C to 320 °C, and a reaction time for which the shell is formed is 15 minutes.

[0132] In an embodiment, following the forming of the core, a purification process and/or a separation process or may be further performed or may be omitted.

[0133] In an embodiment, the solvent may be an organic solvent. For example, the solvent may be trioctylamine,

oleylamine, 1-octadecene (ODE), or the like.

[0134] Other details on the method of preparing the semiconductor nanoparticle will be understood by a person skilled in the art with reference to examples to be described later.

[0135] Hereinafter, semiconductor nanoparticles according to examples will be described in more detail.

[Examples]

Example 1: Synthesis of ZnSe/ZeSe $_{0.66}$ Te $_{0.33}$ /ZnSe semiconductor nanoparticle

[0136] In a three-necked flask, 0.6 mmol of zinc oleate and 10 mL of 1-ODE were added. 0.2 mmol of diphenylphosphine selenide was added thereto at 230 °C, and then right after, 0.1 mmol of trioctylphosphine telluride was added. The mixture was allowed to reaction for 30 minutes.

[0137] Next, 1 mmol of zinc oleate and 1 mmol of trioctylphosphine selenide were added thereto and then allowed to react for 15 minutes at a temperature raised to 300 °C, thereby forming a zinc selenide shell and a semiconductor nanoparticle of Example 1.

[0138] The semiconductor nanoparticle of Example 1 included a ZnSe cluster, a $ZeSe_{0.66}Te_{0.33}$ core, and a ZnSe shell. FIG. 9 shows a TEM image of the semiconductor nanoparticle of Example 1.

Example 2: Synthesis of ZnSe/ZeSe $_{0.66}$ Te $_{0.33}$ /ZnSe/ZnS semiconductor nanoparticle

[0139] In a three-necked flask, 0.6 mmol of zinc oleate and 10 mL of 1-ODE were added. 0.2 mmol of diphenylphosphine selenide was added thereto at 230 °C, and then, right after 0.1 mmol of trioctylphosphine telluride was added. The mixture was allowed to react for 30 minutes.

[0140] Next, 1 mmol of zinc oleate and 1 mmol of trioctylphosphine selenide were added thereto and then allowed to react for 15 minutes at a temperature raised to 300 °C, thereby forming a zinc selenide shell.

[0141] Then, 2 mmol zinc oleate and 2 mmol trioctylphosphine sulfide were added thereto and reacted for 1 hour to form a zinc sulfide shell to obtain a semiconductor nanoparticle of Example 2.

[0142] The semiconductor nanoparticle of Example 2 included a ZnSe cluster, a ZeSe $_{0.66}$ Te $_{0.33}$ core, a ZnSe shell, and a ZnS outer shell. FIG. 10 shows a TEM image of the semiconductor nanoparticle of Example 2.

Comparative Example 1: Synthesis of $ZeSe_{0.66}Te_{0.33}/ZnSe$ semiconductor nanoparticle

[0143] In a three-necked flask, 0.6 mmol of zinc oleate, 0.2 mmol of diphenylphosphine selenide, 0.1 mmol of trioctylphosphine telluride, and 10 mL of 1-ODC were added at the same time and allowed to reaction at 230 °C for 30 minutes.

[0144] Next, 1 mmol of zinc oleate and 1 mmol of trioctylphosphine selenide were added thereto and then allowed to react for 15 minutes at a temperature raised to 300 °C, thereby forming a zinc selenide shell and a semiconductor nanoparticle of Comparative Example 1.

Comparative Example 2: Synthesis of ZeSe_{0.66}Te_{0.33}/ZnSe/ZnS semiconductor nanoparticle

[0145] In a three-necked flask, 0.6 mmol of zinc oleate, 0.2 mmol of diphenylphosphine selenide, 0.1 mmol of trioctylphosphine telluride, and 10 mL of 1-ODC were added at the same time and allowed to reaction at 230 °C for 30 minutes.

[0146] Next, 1 mmol of zinc oleate and 1 mmol of trioctylphosphine selenide were added thereto and then allowed to react for 15 minutes at a temperature raised to 300 °C, thereby forming a zinc selenide shell.

[0147] Then, 2 mmol zinc oleate and 2 mmol trioctylphosphine sulfide were added thereto and reacted for 1 hour to form a zinc sulfide shell to obtain a semiconductor nanoparticle of Comparative Example 2.

Comparative Example 3: Synthesis of ZnSe/ZeSe_{0.66}Te_{0.33} semiconductor nanoparticle

[0148] In a three-necked flask, 0.6 mmol of zinc oleate and 10 mL of 1-ODE were added. 0.2 mmol of diphenylphosphine selenide was added thereto at 230 °C, and then, right after 0.1 mmol of trioctylphosphine telluride was added. The mixture was allowed to react for 30 minutes at 230 °C to obtain a semiconductor nanoparticle of Comparative Example 3.

Comparative Example 4: Synthesis of ZnSe semiconductor nanoparticle

[0149] In a three-necked flask, 0.6 mmol of zinc oleate and 10 mL of 1-ODE were added. 0.2 mmol of diphenylphosphine selenide was added thereto at 230 °C. The mixture was allowed to react for 30 minutes at a temperature raised to 300 °C to obtain a semiconductor nanoparticle of Comparative Example 4.

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Evaluation Example 1

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[0150] Each of the semiconductor nanoparticles of Examples 1 and 2 and Comparative Examples 1 to 4 was evaluated in terms of a UV-Vis spectrum, a PL spectrum, a maximum emission wavelength, an FWHM, and a PLQY, and results thereof are shown in Table 1 and FIGS. 5 to 8. Here, the PLQY was measured by dispersing the semiconductor nanoparticles in toluene and adjusting absorbance to be 0.1 at 450 nm.

Table 1

10		Semiconductor nanoparticle	Maximum emission wavelength (nm)	FWHM (nm)	PLQY (%)
	Exampl e 1	ZnSe/ZeSe _{0.66} Te _{0.33} /ZnSe	510	41	85
15	Exampl e 2	ZnSe/ZeSe _{0.66} Te _{0.33} / ZnSe/ZnS	525	45	95
	Compar ative Exampl e 1	ZeSe _{0.66} Te _{0.33} /ZnSe	508	47	55
20	Compar ative Exampl e 2	ZeSe _{0.66} Te _{0.33} /ZnSe/ZnS	520	51	65
	Compar ative Exampl e 3	ZnSe/ZeSe _{0.66} Te _{0.33}	491	42	75
	Compar ative Exampl e 4	ZnSe	430	22	70

[0151] Referring to Table 1, it was confirmed that the semiconductor nanoparticles of Examples 1 and 2 had a narrow FWHM and an excellent PLQY.

[0152] In addition, referring to Table 1 and FIG. 6, it was confirmed that, unlike the semiconductor nanoparticles of Examples 1 and 2 that emitted green light, the semiconductor nanoparticles of Comparative Examples 3 and 4 emitted visible light having a maximum emission wavelength of less than 500 nm.

[0153] Referring to FIG. 5, it was confirmed that the semiconductor nanoparticles of Examples 1 and 2 had high absorbance for blue light compared to the semiconductor nanoparticles of Comparative Examples 3 and 4.

[0154] Referring to Table 1 and FIG. 7, it was confirmed that the semiconductor nanoparticle of Example 2 including the cluster had a significantly improved PLQY compared to the semiconductor nanoparticle of Comparative Example 2 not including the cluster.

[0155] Referring to FIG. 8, it was confirmed that the semiconductor nanoparticle of Example 2 including the cluster had a significantly longer lifespan than the semiconductor nanoparticle of Comparative Example 2 not including the cluster.

Claims

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- 1. A semiconductor nanoparticle comprising:
- a cluster consisting of a first semiconductor compound;
 a core covering at least a surface of the cluster and comprising a second semiconductor compound; and
 a shell covering at least a surface of the core and comprising a third semiconductor compound,
 wherein the first semiconductor compound and the third semiconductor compound each comprise zinc (Zn),
 the second semiconductor compound comprises Zn, tellurium (Te), and selenium (Se),
 the first semiconductor compound and the second semiconductor compound are different from each other, and
 the second semiconductor compound and the third semiconductor compound are different from each other.
 - 2. The semiconductor nanoparticle of claim 1, wherein the first semiconductor compound comprises ZnSe.
- 3. The semiconductor nanoparticle of claim 1, wherein the second semiconductor compound is represented by ZnSe_{1-x}Te_x, and x satisfies 0.05<x≤0.5.</p>

- **4.** The semiconductor particle of claim 3, wherein x satisfies $0.33 \le x \le 0.5$.
- 5. The semiconductor nanoparticle of claim 1, wherein the third semiconductor compound comprises ZnSe or ZnSe_yS_{1-y}, and y satisfies 0≤y<1.</p>
- **6.** The semiconductor nanoparticle of claim 1, wherein a band gap of the cluster is greater than that of the core, and a band gap of the shell is greater than that of the core.
- 7. The semiconductor nanoparticle of claim 1, wherein the semiconductor nanoparticle has a spherical quantum well.
 - **8.** The semiconductor nanoparticle of claim 1, wherein the semiconductor nanoparticle emits light having a maximum emission wavelength in a range of 445 nm to 550 nm.
- **9.** The semiconductor nanoparticle of claim 1, further comprising an outer shell covering at least a surface of the shell and comprising a fourth semiconductor compound, wherein the fourth semiconductor compound comprises a Group II element.
- **10.** The semiconductor nanoparticle of claim 9, wherein the fourth semiconductor comprises Zn, and is a binary compound or a ternary compound.
 - **11.** The semiconductor nanoparticle of claim 9, wherein the fourth semiconductor compound comprises ZnS, ZnSe, ZnTe, ZnO, ZnSeS, ZnSeTe, ZnSTe, or any combination thereof.
- 12. The semiconductor nanoparticle of claim 9, wherein the semiconductor nanoparticle emits light having a maximum emission wavelength in a range of 470 nm to 650 nm.
 - 13. The semiconductor nanoparticle of claim 1, wherein an average diameter of the cluster is less than or equal to 1.5 nm.
- 30 **14.** The semiconductor nanoparticle of claim 1, wherein an average diameter of the core is in a range of 2.0 nm to 5.0 nm.
 - **15.** The semiconductor nanoparticle of claim 1, wherein an average diameter of the semiconductor nanoparticle is in a range of 3.0 nm to 13.0 nm.
- 35 16. An electronic device comprising a first substrate, a light-emitting device, and a second substrate, wherein the second substrate comprises the semiconductor nanoparticle according to any one of claims 1 to 15.
 - **17.** The electronic device of claim 16, wherein the semiconductor nanoparticle is comprised in one region of the second substrate, and the semiconductor nanoparticle absorbs blue light and emits visible light.
 - **18.** The electronic device of claim 17, wherein the second substrate further includes another region distinct from the one region, and the other region comprises a scatterer, but does not comprise the semiconductor nanoparticle.
 - **19.** The electronic device of claim 16, wherein the second substrate is positioned in a direction in which light emitted from the light-emitting device travels.
- 20. An electronic device comprising a first electrode, a second electrode, and an interlayer between the first electrode and the second electrode, wherein the interlayer comprises the semiconductor nanoparticle according to any one of claims 1 to 15.

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FIG. 1

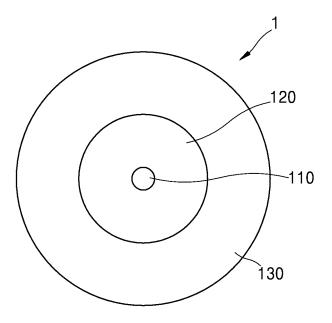
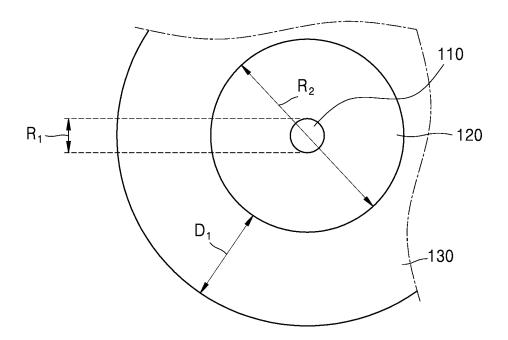
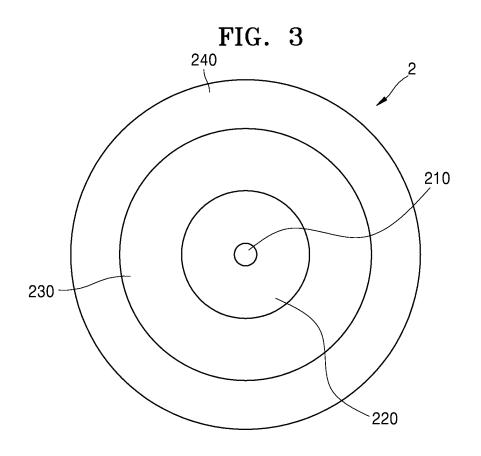
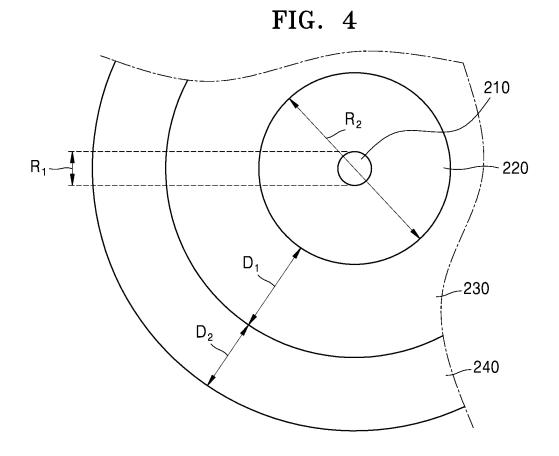


FIG. 2









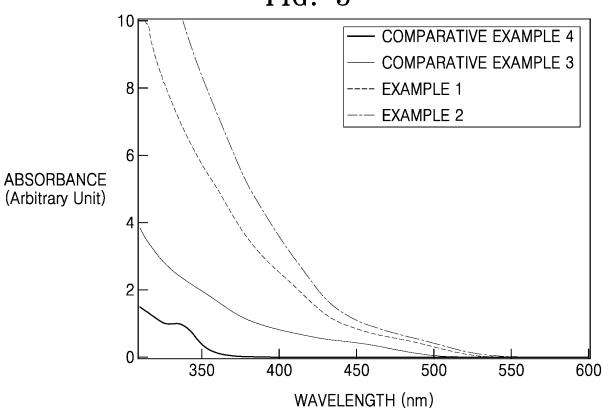
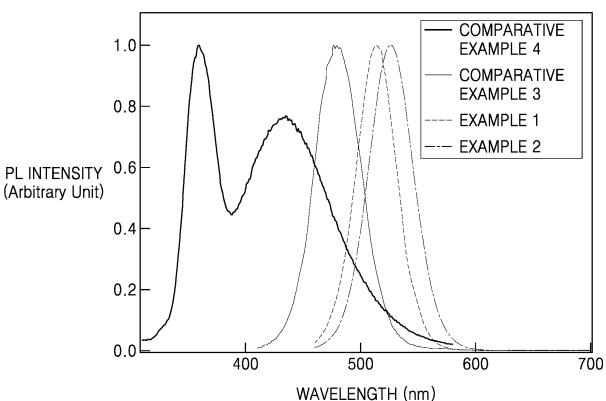
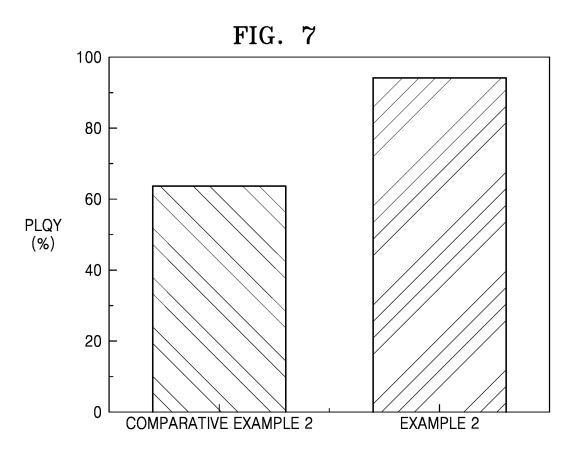
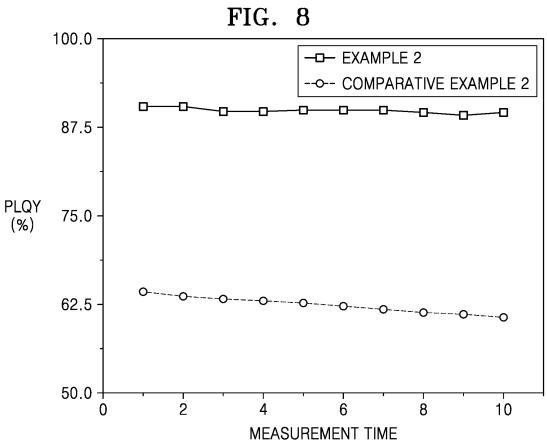


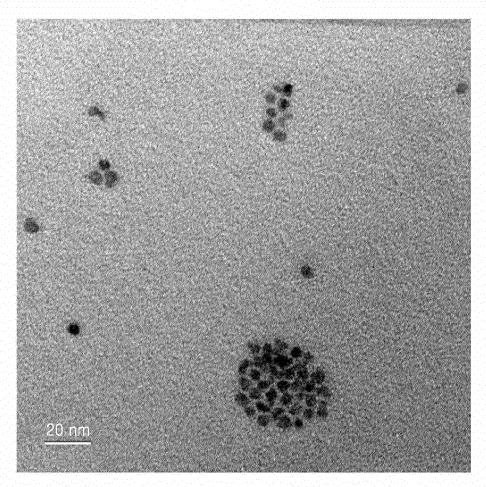
FIG. 6











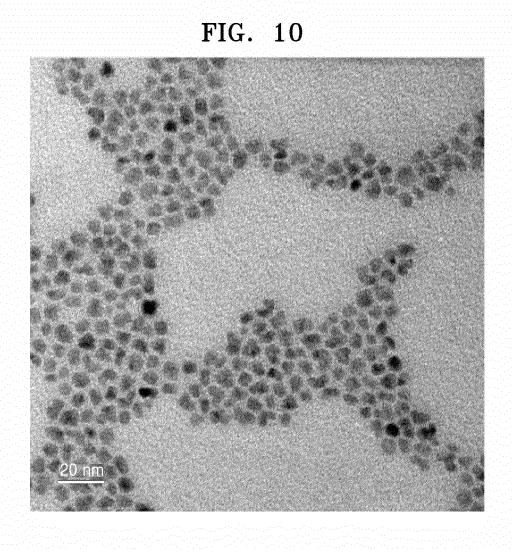


FIG. 11

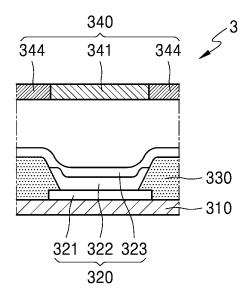
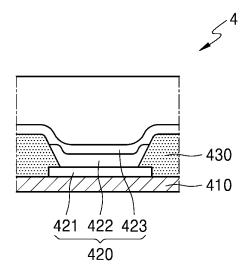


FIG. 12



INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/KR2020/095124

	SSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER						
C09K	11/02 (2006.01)i; C09K 11/88 (2006.01)i; B82Y 20/00((2011.01)n					
According to	o International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both nat	ional classification and IPC					
	DS SEARCHED						
Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols) C09K 11/02(2006.01); B82B 1/00(2006.01); B82B 3/00(2006.01); B82Y 20/00(2011.01); B82Y 40/00(2011.01);							
C01G							
Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched							
Korean utility models and applications for utility models: IPC as above Japanese utility models and applications for utility models: IPC as above							
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eKOM	IPASS (KIPO internal) & keywords: 반도체(semicondu	uctor), 클러스터(cluster), ZnSe, ZnSeTe, Zn	nS, 코어(core), 쉘(shell)				
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"E" earlier application or patent but published on or after the international filing date "L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is		when the document is taken alone "Y" document of particular relevance; the cl					
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"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed							
Date of the actual completion of the international search		Date of mailing of the international search report					
06 May 2021		13 May 2021					
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	ntellectual Property Office ent Complex-Daejeon Building 4, 189 Cheongsa-						
	1, Daejeon 35208	- 4.4.3.					
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